*File No.*3/87/42-Poll(I)

Collection No

19 42.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

POLITICAL(INTERNAL)SEC.

Pros. / Serial Nos.

Subject.

A public statement issued by certain ladies protesting against the action taken by the Government in connection with the Congress Civil Disobedience Movement 1942-43.

Previous References.	Later References.

FILE NO:- 3/87/42-Poll(I)

AN APPEAL.

The following public Statement has been issued by the undersigned:-

"We cannot help feeling extremely concerned with the events that have occurred in the country since the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress Leaders. In our opinion the Government has been very unwise in summarily rejecting the opportunity offered by Mahatma Gandhi and the President of the Congress to come to an understanding with political India on the issue of India's freedom. By launching a compaign of general repression Government has deliberately ignored the positive proposals for the establishment of a National Government in India contained in the resolution of the A.I.C.C. passed at its last session and has thus precipitated a conflict with the Congress.

"Government that claims to be engaged in a world struggle for the preservation of Democracy and individual liberty cannot afford to allow notions of prestige and false dignity to come in the way of settlement which would satisfy the aspirations of the people of India for immediate independence. Such an attitude on the part of Government cannot inspire confidence in its professed ideals.

"We further wish to enter our emphatic protest against uncivilised methods which the Provincial Governments have employed in their attempt to suppress popular demonstrations. All over the country the police and military authorities have fired indiscriminately on unarmed crowds of men and women, disper ed them by teargas attacks or lathi charges resulting in bloodshed and acute physical suffering and thereby filled every Indian heart with deep resentment. Such repression has resulted in an outburst o. public wrath causing destruction of property.

"By isolating Mahatma Gandhi and other members of the Wor ing Committee and refusing them the privilege usually enjoyed by political prisoners of their status, we feel the Government behaving in an unjustifiably arbitrary manner. Such behaviour can only increase the bitter feelings of the people.

"We fervently hope that every important section of the people will exert its influence to force the Government to adopt civilised methods of settling the problem of India's political demand. In particular, we urge the women of India to exert their energies towards this end."

Sd/- Rajkumari Amrit Kaur,
Patron, All-India Women's Comference.
" Mrs. M.E. Cousins,
Patron, A.I.W.C.
" Shrimati Rameshwari Nehru,
Patron, A.I.W.C.
" Shrimati Kamaladevi,
Vice-President, A.I.W.C.
" Mrs. Asaf Ali,
Vice-President, A.I.W.C.
" Mrs. Hansa Mehta,
Member, Franchise & Citizenship, A.I.W.C.
" Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan,
Vice-President, A.I.W.C.
" Mrs. Shardaben Mehta,
Standing Committee Member, A.I.W.C.
" Mrs. Urmila Mehta.
" Mrs. Jaishri Raiji.
" Mrs. Kusum Sayani,
St Committee Member, A.I.W.C.

15.8.42.

P.I.O
H.D. u/o No. 6077/42-Poll(O)Sl3/91

A brief summary appeared in
Bombay Chronicle. Calling enclosed
herewith HTD may like to see before it is
returned to H.D.

B. L. Sharma
3/8

Secretary (HD)

Home Department (N. Branch)

H.D-6603-A/

P.I.O u/o No. D. 1287/42-N, dt. 4.8.42

Addl. Secy. may see A regd to Govt
of 2.9.42. overleaf.

Addl. Secy

Reminder 4/9
3/9

4/9

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